

Spring Décor Trends

Put the kibosh on cold weather and welcome in the warm with stylish and sensible design trends you'll want to bring home

Compiled by Kym Wolfe



COMPARED TO THE FICKLE WORLD OF fashion, home and décor trends evolve at glacial speed. Still, each season new trends do emerge and influence the way we decorate our homes and style our living environments. And trends aren't only about a new look; they also highlight advances in technology and reflect the ways we live our lives.

In the spirit of David Letterman's much-loved Top Ten lists, London area industry experts share their predictions as to what will be hot in home décor in the coming year. Certain themes will continue from previous years, with some gaining momentum

as they become more widely accepted. Still others will explode onto the scene as fresh, inventive options for today's home and design enthusiasts. All of them will be woven together seamlessly by the thread of personalization and comfort.

LONDON HOME IMPROVEMENT



FABRICS: Say It Loud, Say It Proud

*Trend prediction by Debbie Etherington
of Simply Fabrics and Draperies*

Stripes, paisleys and polka dots are the hot trend in accessory fabrics this season. Accent colours will be bold and bright, contrasting with upholstery and draperies in neutral taupes, browns, blacks and whites. Try lime green, orange, canary yellow and hot pink accent cushions, or chocolate brown trimmed with robin egg blue for a rich colour combination. Full draperies in textured and tone-on-tone patterned fabrics will be popular, including elegant but affordable faux silk draperies in a variety of colours. Shiny metals in rods and finials are out; pewter, antique copper and other dull metal finishes are in.

ORGANIZATION: Take Back Your Garage

*Trend prediction by Henry Nieman
of Nieman Market Design*

The trend to organizing your space and your life has moved out of the house and into the garage. A well-designed system will transform the garage into multi-purpose space for storage, workshop, gardening or other hobbies—and there should still be room to park the car. Designer shelving, cabinetry, workbenches, hangers and other wall storage systems are eye-pleasing ways to improve the efficient use of space. Install rugged steel cabinets with grated doors, lay down heavy-duty tread-plate patterned flooring, throw in a matching beer fridge and you'll have a garage that is both functional and attractive.



WALL TREATMENTS: Wallpaper is Back, Baby!

*Trend prediction by Mary Crowley
of Hyde Park Paint and Paper*

If you haven't given your walls much thought since last agonizing over paint chips, now is the time to consider today's new wallpaper and wall décor products. It's like switching from traditional to high-definition TV—you won't see walls the same way ever again. Wallpaper's sharper image has everything to do with advanced technology incorporated into striking designs to suit the way we live today. For a room with flair, paper one wall and wrap the other three in a complimentary colour, or paint the focal wall a different colour from the rest. For a subtle change that will soften the entire room, paint the ceiling a slightly lighter colour than the walls. Balance neutral wall tones with pops of colour in bookshelves, built-ins or other accent pieces—try peacock blue, acid green and bright oranges. For a fun, dramatic punch, paint a small powder room in bold colours like dark grey, deep red or willow.



DECK AND PATIOS: Extend Your Living Space

*Trend prediction by Steven Gilboe
of Patio Palace*

Patios continue their evolution into extended living space, often topped by an awning or gazebo. Enjoy deep-cushioned seating, an open-air kitchen and patio heaters that prolong outdoor enjoyment long after the sun has set. Newer trends include tables with either an ice-chest or a fire bowl built into them, double chaise lounges inspired by Mexican and French Riviera designs, and modular sectionals that can be configured to suit the individual patio or deck area. Use striped and patterned umbrellas and cushions to brighten taupe, green, straw linen, chocolate, and walnut furniture. Choose bright accent colours—tangerine, burnt orange, bright crimson, papaya, glacier and spa blues.





**KITCHENS:
Cool And
Confident**

*Trend prediction by Andrea Wright
of Verbeek Kitchens*

This spring's new kitchen will have a sleek, clean look with flat panel cabinet doors and stainless steel or black appliances. Upper cabinets staggered to different heights will add an interesting design element to the room. For an economical new countertop, try one of the new laminates that provide the look and feel of stone and granite but at a much lower price point. Popular cabinet accessories include pull-out spice organizers, roll-out shelves and soft-close drawers with hydraulic cushions that prevent slamming. Define your seating area at the bar or island by staining it in a darker finish that will stand out from other kitchen cabinetry



**HOME FURNISHINGS:
Mix, Match
and Marry**

*Trend prediction by Lisa Widdifield
of Home by Rural Roots*

Unduttered, colourful and eclectic are the buzzwords this spring when it comes to home furnishings. If you are downsizing your living space, look for pretty but practical pieces—an ottoman with ample storage space, or a coffee table that elevates and expands on demand, becoming a dining table for six. Try smaller pieces of furniture with clean lines and display just a few really interesting sculptures or decorative pieces. Be daring with accessory colours and experiment with different styles—for example, pair a rough-hewn wood dining table with acrylic chairs for a rustic and raw look.



**HOME ACCESSORIES:
A Grey Area**

*Trend prediction by Joseph Branco
of Quantum*

Shades of grey are all the rage this spring, softened with brown accents. Brighten your home with accessories in baby blue, mint green, lavender and other muted pastels. Décor will either incorporate a natural look using sustainable materials like bamboo and plantation wood, or it will embrace the glamorous with crystal chandeliers (even in the bedroom and bathroom), laquered tables, acrylic lamps and accent pieces in mercury glass or chrome that are reflective, light and airy. For people downsizing to smaller space, multi-functional furniture is a must—a bed with storage drawers or a coffee table with hidden drawers that transforms into a desk.



**LANDSCAPING:
Easy-Care Gardens**

*Trend prediction by Karina Macfarlane
of Concept Land Design*

Forget the high-maintenance manicured lawn and beds of colourful annuals that require constant weeding. For maximum outdoor enjoyment with minimal work, this year's yards will sport butterfly gardens, native wildflowers, slow-growing and dwarf varieties of shrubs and ornamentals, and hardy perennial beds topped with a deep layer of wood or cedar mulch. With bubbling rocks and pondless waterfalls you can enjoy the sounds of water without the work to maintain a full pond. Create functional areas in the yard—for the pool, hot tub, fire pit, cooking and relaxing—with multi-level patios, stone pathways, landscape rocks and other outdoor design elements.



**FLOORING:
Naturally Better**

*Trend prediction by Dave Holden
of Floor Source Inc.*

The environmentally conscious consumer will have natural, sustainable materials underfoot this spring. Think bamboo or cork flooring with wool area rugs. Achieve a formal look with tone-on-tone, sculptured or tip-sheared carpeting. For a retro look try two-tone shag carpet in bold oranges, greens and browns. There will be more cork in the kitchen, either full floor or as an insert in "standing" areas—along the counter or in front of the stove, for example. Carpet tiles will be a popular choice for family rooms—an easy do-it-yourself project and you can show your creative flair by designing a checkerboard or other fun and funky patterns.



**HOME RENOVATIONS:
Code Green**

*Trend prediction by Craig Hardy
of Covenant Construction*

Energy efficiency is one of the biggest factors driving home renovations this spring, from bathroom renovations that incorporate dual-flush toilets to the installation of a geo-thermal heating system. With government rebates available, green renovations are kind both to the environment and to the wallet—but the results still have to look good and feel comfortable. Instead of building an addition, people will be more apt to move or remove walls so that existing space is better utilized. Installing conduits while the walls are open will make it easy to hook up a solar panel at some point in the future.